

MILESTONES

WELCOME ABOARD NEW HIRES!

Douglas Allen	Code Enforcement Officer
Robert Beaugez	Code Enforcement Officer
David Blakeney	Code Enforcement Officer
Mark Clarite	Patrol Officer
Clint Fore	Patrol Officer
Kelvin Harris	General Service Employee
Elizabeth MacMillan	Administrative Asst. III
Amber Moran	Dispatcher

Michelle Ponder	Economic Development Coordinator
Keith Rhodes	General Service Employee
Lee Seymour	Patrol Officer
Ben Wolfe	Director of Public Works
Francis Yanok	General Service Employee
Wyndell Yates	General Service Employee
Katherine Zanders	School Crossing Guard

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!

Timothy Adams	Patrol Officer II
Chad Asher	Firefighter I
Lindsay Boggan	Patrol Officer II
Steven Conner	Firefighter II
Archie Fitch	Firefighter I

Frank Moraway	Firefighter II
Bryan Pryor	Building Inspector
John Stegall	Firefighter II
Andrew Thompson	Patrol Officer II



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October

- 1 Natasha Tate, Jonathan Grimes, Thomas King & Jonathan Bratton
- 2 Charles Beasley, Blake Tucker, Douglas Hicks, Jess Traina, Jeraldine Young & Vicki Parkhill
- 3 Alan Anderson
- 4 Randall Johnson
- 5 Lon Booker & Charles Davis
- 6 Braxton Ogburn
- 7 Patrick McCann
- 8 Ian Murray
- 9 Randy Necaise, Donald Myers, Carl Gangemi, Richard Farris & Lonnie Bobinger
- 10 Jacqueline White, Dereck Ladner & Charlie Pryor
- 12 Chandra Moore & Christopher Celentano
- 13 Don Ernst
- 14 Jonathan Bounds
- 15 John Johnson
- 16 Theresa Northington
- 17 Jeffrey Scafide
- 19 Cindy Reid
- 22 Bran Bishop, Gregory Holmes & Marshal Hilley
- 23 Jason Gouin, Mickey Sheppard & Stephanie Benigno
- 24 Norman Heflin
- 26 Perry Byrd & Damian McRight
- 27 David Bertucci
- 28 Margaret Murdock, Gary Hollimon & John August
- 29 Timothy Sims, John Stachura, Michael Westbrook & David Hansen
- 30 George Chaix, John Grant, Claudia Salas & Christopher Baker
- 31 Dean Morrow & Eddie Walker



November

- 1 John Ladner, Benjamin Simpson, Linda Swann & Brandon Necaise
- 2 Adam Johnson & Jacqueline Platts
- 4 Gary Taylor & John Thornton
- 5 Matilda Welch
- 6 Frank Skinner, Carl Walters & John Bennett
- 8 Raymond Eaton, Ryker Haselden & Reginald Sims
- 9 Allison Stachura
- 10 Brian Carriere & Kerri Jones
- 13 Samuel Acosta & Lauren Germany
- 14 Robert Morton
- 15 Charles Thurman & Eddie Hilliard
- 16 Dennis Walker
- 17 Chandra McGill & Douglas Allen
- 18 John Kelly, Nellie Henry, Joseph Ashmore, John Duncan, Lisa Lane, William Scarborough & Darren Vedros
- 19 Woodrow Payne & Scott Hetrick
- 20 Barbara Nalley, Robert Harenski & Shannon Hampton
- 21 Paula Bradshaw
- 23 James Griffin & Lawrence Burkhalter
- 24 Kenneth Brown & Kevin Raymond
- 25 Thida Hall, Tommy Payne & Joseph Wuest
- 26 Daniel Campton & Joseph Ing
- 27 Phillip Biancamano & Jeffrey Necaise
- 28 Kenneth Martin, Jonathan Smith & Ronald Roe
- 29 Godfrey Davis, Wyndell Yates, Jennifer Fay & Rochelle Ramsey
- 30 Sheila Ramon

URBAN DEVELOPMENT *Submitted by Isaac Williams*

Workforce Enrichment

28 members of the Urban Development department attended an "International Property Maintenance Code" seminar on July 26th. This professional training provided knowledge on minimum standards for existing and non-existing

residential structures. Topics included "Life Safety," "Sanitary Maintenance," and "The Responsibility of Owners Operators and Occupants." The course also offered the opportunity to earn an International Code Council Certificate and Continued Education Units.

Congratulations to **Ted Molesworth**, Sign Enforcement Officer, who passed the Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector exam!

Gulfport at a GLANCE



The City of Gulfport, Mississippi

September/October 2008

FIRST GEM AWARDS ANNOUNCED *Submitted by Lauren Germany*

The City of Gulfport held its first GEM Awards luncheon on September 24th at C&G Grille. The awards are the City of Gulfport's employee recognition program celebrating those who "Go the Extra Mile." The GEM program is designed to recognize employees who have made extraordinary contributions in the workplace or community in the following areas: Outstanding Service, Innovation, Community Service, Safety & Heroism, and Human Relations. Recipients received a \$50 gift card donated by Sunbelt Fire. The luncheon was sponsored by Island View Casino.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST GEM WINNERS!

OUTSTANDING SERVICE:	Allison Stachura	Police Department
OUTSTANDING SERVICE:	Heather McCarthy	Municipal Courts
INNOVATION:	Jim Dyer	Leisure Services
OUTSTANDING SERVICE:	Ryan Merrill	Information Systems
OUTSTANDING SERVICE:	Anthony Wallace	Police Department
HUMAN RELATIONS:	Thomas Lane	Urban Development



(From left: CAO Dr. John Kelly, Allison Stachura (Police Department), Heather McCarthy (Municipal Courts), Jim Dyer (Leisure Services), Ryan Merrill (Information Systems), Anthony Wallace (Police Department), Thomas Lane (Urban Development), Mayor Brent Warr)

Said **Cheryl Millender**, Human Resources Manager, "It is with great pride that we announced our first GEM Award winners. These employees lead by example in their workplace and community. I encourage you to nominate a fellow employee who is leading the way for the City of Gulfport."

If you know of an employee who deserves special recognition, why not submit a nomination form for the next GEM Award! Forms & guidelines can be found on the HR web page. The deadline for next quarter has been extended to October 20.

PROGRESS & RECOVERY CONTINUES

On September 30th, the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce re-opened the doors of the **Joseph T. Jones Building** at a long awaited ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The building, commonly known as the "Water Department," will once again house the City's water billing offices, the Leisure Services department and the Information Systems department. Said **Mayor Warr**, "This is the first city building in our downtown area to be rebuilt and renovated since Katrina. The administration's goal to provide a quality

work environment for our employees and the opening of the **Jones Building** are the start of this process. I appreciate your willingness to work these past three years in the trailers provided to us after Katrina and I know we all look forward to the day when we are all back in new offices throughout our city."

About 40 employees have left their temporary trailers and returned to work in the **Jones Building**. Smiling as she prepared to greet the day's first customer, **Nancy Chisholm** simply said, "It's good to be back!"



Councilwoman Libby Milner-Roland helps Mayor Warr celebrate progress

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU: Benefits & Wellness

OPEN ENROLLMENT

The month of November is the City of Gulfport's open enrollment period for any employees and dependents covered by our health insurance plan. This is the time that you will be able to make changes in your benefit elections.

Benefit changes made during open enrollment are effective January 1, 2009 and will remain in effect for the 2009 plan year unless there is a change in family status during the plan year such as a birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption or loss of coverage due to the loss of a spouse's employment.

Employees who are full time and who have never enrolled in coverage also have the opportunity to apply for coverage during open enrollment. Pre-existing conditions and late entrant enrollments will prevent some medical and dental claims from being covered. (See the Summary

Plan Description for these exceptions.)

Employees wishing to make a change to any of their coverage should come to Human Resources Department (1422-23rd Avenue, Building D-2) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. No changes may be made after November 30, 2008.

There are no insurance coverage changes for the 2009 plan year. For those employees who wish to keep their current coverage, no action is necessary! Coverage will remain the same for employees who do not make a change in coverage for 2009.

Employees who are currently enrolled in the Flexible spending accounts (FSA) and wish to remain in the plan(s), must complete a new Flexible spending salary agreement for 2009. Forms will be mailed to these individuals and should be returned to Human

Resources. Participation in one or both FSA's can save you money by **reducing your taxable income!**

To be eligible for medical reimbursements, an expense must be for medical care incurred during the 2008 coverage period. Remember, expenses are incurred when you receive medical care and not when you are billed, charged, or pay for them.

A list of eligible expenses and worksheet to help you estimate your expenses can be found in the Benefits section of the HR Web Page.

Dependent daycare expenses may be reimbursed for work-related expenses for any qualifying individual, such as a dependent age 12 or under, who entitles you to a personal tax exemption or a spouse or other tax dependent who is physically or mentally unable to care for him or herself.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast cancer is a malignant (cancerous) tumor that starts from cells of the breast. The disease occurs mostly in women, but men can get breast cancer as well.

In fact, breast cancer is the most common cancer that women face. This year an estimated 21,400 women will develop breast cancer, and 5,300 women will lose their battle against it. While it can occur at any age, the most likely time a woman will be diagnosed is after age 40. Some women may have a greater chance of having breast cancer than other women.

RISK FACTORS

Aside from being female, age is the most important factor affecting breast

cancer risk. Other major factors are family history of breast cancer and ethnicity – white women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer than are African-American women.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The best defense is early detection. Self exams are a good place to start, but a breast exam by a healthcare professional should be a part of a regular health exam. Beginning at age 40, women should have annual mammograms. **Mammograms are included as part of the wellness benefit of the City's health insurance plan.**

In addition, the following are all associated with a lower risk of breast cancer: engage in regular moderate or vigorous physical activity, maintain a healthy body weight and drink less than two alcoholic drinks each day.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS *Submitted by Mike Saucier*

CONGRATULATIONS POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES

A Mississippi police recruit must attend a state sanctioned Academy within two years of their hire date. The third class of 2008 graduated on September 12. Congratulations to these Gulfport officers for successfully completing their certifications: **Patrolmen Charles Allen, Greg Peleaz, Drew Robinson, Kyle Michael & Sam Acosta.**

These officers received special recognition awards at graduation: **Sam Acosta**, Class Leader; **Kyle Michael**, Driving Award; and **Drew Robinson**, Academic Award, Distinguished Graduate and the Larkin I. Smith Award.

JUNE'S OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Sergeant Luke Thompson

Congratulations to **Sergeant Luke Thompson**, nominated as Officer of the Month for June. He is an eight-year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department, currently working in the Training and Planning Division. **Sergeant Thompson** was recognized for his diligent work helping the police department complete its goal of moving toward becoming a State Accredited Law Enforcement Agency. According to his supervisor, "For over ten months,

Sergeant Thompson excelled in his duties to revise and institute new policies and modify current practices to conform to accreditation guidelines and standards." The recent favorable findings of The Mississippi Commission of Law Enforcement Accreditation are due in large part to the hard work and dedication of **Sgt. Thompson**. (To learn more about the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, check out the Police Department website.)

JULY'S OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Lieutenant Rob Curry

Lieutenant Rob Curry was nominated as July's Officer of the Month. Tragically killed in the line of duty August 14, he was a 14-year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department working in the Traffic Division. **Lieutenant Curry** was recognized for this distinction in recognition of his passionate

efforts to increase the efficiency of operations through the purchase and use of electronic ticket writers. He worked on this project with a passion. **Curry** believed in new law enforcement innovations and worked hard on a daily basis to improve the safety and work environment of those who served with him.

WHAT MAKES A FAMILY?

Within the Gulfport Police Department, we commonly refer to each other as "family." This bond is ingrained in every law enforcement agency around the world. The very nature of the job creates a connection that is indescribable to those outside the law enforcement world. It is a bond of trust that you place in another officer knowing he or she will be there when you need them to be your back up and support...knowing that another human being will run toward danger with you, instead of away. The men and women of the Gulfport Police Department have made such a commitment to one another. We

have also made a commitment to care for the family members of our officers. Each officer should be able to perform his daily duties without fear for his family or their livelihood. Such a commitment was made for **Lieutenant Rob Curry** and his family.

On Monday, September 15, members of the Gulfport Police Department rallied behind the **Curry** family to support **Rob's** son **Trevor** in his first football game of the season. Every officer in attendance wore a shirt with a memorial picture of **Rob** and provided **Trevor** his very own fan

section in the bleachers to cheer him on to victory. His mother, **Lt. Leslie Curry**, made the coin toss to start the game and **Trevor** served as honorary team captain for the night.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS *Submitted by Donna Ladner*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Steve Conner, Glenn Parker and Ian Murray passed their Paramedic exam and are now nationally registered paramedics!

Fire Extinguisher Training is fun and can save lives & property! Those interested in a class or fire safety talk, should call the Gulfport Fire Department at 868-5950.



Inspector John Johnson and members of the department attended a CPR instructor class taught by the American Red Cross.



Over 125 Gulfport HS students and teachers attended a fire extinguisher class. Inspector Randy Johnson (pictured), John Johnson, and Richard Ritchie gave the class.



(Pictured are Engineer Glenn Parker, Firefighters Greg Landry and Jess Traina) On September 26, students from Christian Academy were given a tour of Central Station and learned important fire safety rules.

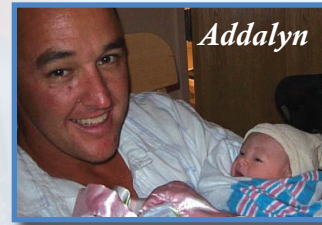


INTRODUCING GULFPORT FIREFIGHTER CLASS OF 2029!



Aaron

Engineer Curt and Stacie Prestwood welcomed baby boy Aaron Curtis on July 8th.



Addalyn

Engineer Jay Ellis & wife Kim welcomed baby girl Addalyn Brook on September 5th.



Addison

Firefighter Holden Stegall & wife Brandi welcomed baby girl Addison Elizabeth on September 15th.



Jonathan

Firefighter Jonathan Malley & wife Jennifer welcomed baby boy Jonathan Kyle, born September 5th.



Gavin

Engineer Pat Sutherlin and wife Nancy welcomed baby boy Gavin Michael on September 19th.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



ROTARY CLUB'S 2007 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Lieutenant Neal Stachura, Rotary Club of Gulfport's Officer of the Year for 2007! He began his career as a cadet in the Gulfport Police Department Explorer Program at 16 and became a certified officer in 1993. Lt. Stachura is the supervisor of the Technical Department and responsible for ensuring all equipment needed for an officer's car has been installed and working properly. A fleet of 200 units makes this seem an impossible task, but with his leadership each patrol unit is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal.



Lieutenant Neal Stachura

PUBLIC WORKS, WORKING FOR US ALL *Submitted by Richard Thorsten*

MORE POWER!

Public Works is continuing its ongoing efforts to stretch the City's budget and save tax payer dollars. Recently, the City removed three large 225KW stationary generators from the buildings at the VA site in Gulfport. Generators of this size produce enough electricity to fully power four to five average size homes at one time. **These new assets can provide critical power to city buildings, water wells, sewer lift stations, etc.** A new 225KW generator setup like this would

cost around \$85,000 dollars. But thanks to hard work and creative thinking, once the units were inspected, serviced and repaired, and a specialized DOT-approved trailer and control panel were ordered, and a used power panel and 400 amp breaker left over from Katrina were installed, the City has less than \$15,000 invested in this new asset. **That is a \$60,000 dollar savings, times three, to the tax payers of this city.** Great job to all!



From left: Equipment Specialists Bradford Ward and Douglas Hicks

LOAD BANK HELPS CITY BANK SAVINGS



From left: Equipment Specialist John Ladner, Jr. and Traffic Signal Technician Ken Adams

The City has always contracted out the load testing of its many portable and stationary emergency backup generators because it did not own a load bank testing unit – until now.

What is Load Testing? The only way to fully test the output capacity of a

generator is to put the unit under a power load with a load bank unit. A load bank is much like a giant hair dryer with wire coils that draw power when energized. It is equipped with a huge fan to blow off the heat that is created and a digital readout to record the results. As the load draw is increased, the generator has to produce more power and the load is slowly increased until the maximum output capacity of the unit is achieved.

The City purchased the load bank and a transport trailer at a cost of \$20,000. During this year's testing of generators, the Maintenance and Traffic Division teamed together

and tested 22 generators. An outside vendor would have charged over \$600 per 300KW generator. Travel costs are extra, and several of the City's units are site specific and can not be moved. All together, a vendor would have charged well over \$25,000 to do the testing handled by our crew. But thanks to the purchase of the Load Bank Test equipment and crew training, City tax payers can expect a **savings of more than \$100,000 over the next four years.** Great job on the forward thinking and the saving!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

NOVEMBER 20 IS THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT!

On May 20th, Gulfport became the first city on the Coast to provide a smoke-free environment for its citizens. Can YOU go smoke-free?

On the third Thursday of every year, smokers across the nation take part in the **American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout** by smoking less or quitting for the day. The

event challenges people to stop using tobacco and raises awareness of the many effective ways to quit for good.

The Great American Smokeout also draws attention to the death and chronic disease caused by smoking. An estimated 45 million American adults smoke. Tobacco use can cause lung cancer, as well

as other cancers, heart disease and lung disease. Smoking is responsible for one in three cancer deaths, and one in five deaths from all causes. Another 8.6 million people are living with serious illnesses caused by smoking.

Are you thinking about quitting smoking? Don't go it alone! Long term



support is available through Memorial Hospital's Free Tobacco Cessation Program. Call **867-4022** to pre-register for information about the next six-week program.

MOVING FORWARD IN COLLECTIONS! *Submitted by Pam Heiter & Jennifer J. Snaer*



The Municipal Court is increasing its focus on the collection of both old and new fines. **Odell Thompson, Jr.**, Court Administrator for Gulfport Municipal Court, and **Chief Alan Weatherford**, Gulfport Police Department, have joined forces to hold violators accountable for their

fines and deter repeat offenders of minor traffic violations and misdemeanors. "The desire is to curb crime by taking offenders with multiple offenses off the streets," said **Douglas Galloway**, Collections Manager.

In this joint effort, the Municipal Court and Gulfport Police have conducted random warrant details to arrest offenders with multiple unpaid fines. **Recently, one of these details resulted in the arrests of 28 offenders on approximately \$250,000 worth of Capias Fines combined!** 11 of those arrested were incarcerated for Failure to Pay. In the most recent warrant detail, six offenders were arrested

on multiple warrants and \$7,734.00 was collected as a result. This effort will be ongoing and will continue to be randomly executed throughout the city to increase the possibility of reducing crime and collecting old fines due to the court.

Gulfport Municipal Court is also working with the Police Department to help make the payment of fines easier. When a citation is issued, police officers are distributing payment envelopes provided by the court. Allowing payment by mail will reduce the need for violators to come to the courthouse to pay their fines, saving them time.

LEISURE SERVICES UPDATE *Submitted by Kerri Jones*

Senior Citizens Programming

A full range of senior activities and events are available at the temporary **Senior Citizens' Center at St. Therese's School**, 19th St. and 35th Ave. Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Senior exercise programs are in full stride with daily programs at the Center, Handsboro Community Center, and Morning Star Baptist Church. For more information on our senior programs, please contact **Robert Locke** or **Brenda Salloum** at 868-5882.

Continuing Education

David D'Aquila, Assistant Director, and **Kerri M. Jones**, Program Coordinator, attended a Mississippi Recreation & Park Association (MRPA) conference in mid-September. The conference offered parks and recreation professionals sessions filled with programming ideas and tips on providing services promoting state residents a more leisure-filled lifestyle.



Current Athletic Programs

Pee Wee Tackle Football: The season runs through bowl games held November 5. This year we will have seven teams participating in our city league (approximately 325) and cheerleaders.

Pee Wee Flag Football: The season runs through tournament games, starting October 30. 12 teams are participating in our city league (approximately 168).

Adult Flag Football: The season runs through tournament games, starting October 30. This year twelve teams are participating in our city league (approximately 240).

Pee Wee & Youth Basketball: Registration at different sites around the City of Gulfport begins Monday, November 10 and ends Thursday, November 13. Late registration will start Monday, November 17 and runs through Thursday, November 19.

Soccer: 13 fields are filled with over 740 kids playing on 65 teams every Monday & Wednesday through October 29. All players will receive a medallion during the League Jamboree on November 3. Almost 2,000 spectators attend each game. Join the fun! Come on out & take pictures!

For additional information on tournaments held at the Sportsplex, check out our web page at gulfportsportsplex.net.

HEART WALK SUCCESS *Submitted by Vicki Parkhill*



The City of Gulfport/Southwest Water Heart Walk Team captains **Vicki Parkhill, Reggie Sims, Nette Alexander, Anita Jones, Pam Heiter, Joy Malone, Merlissia Lewis** and **Natasha Tate** worked over the past several months through funds raisers to reach the city's goal of \$10,000. This was a winning team with a lot of

winning ideas and fun filled events. Thanks to their efforts, a total of \$13,850 was raised!

In addition to the October 4th Heart Walk, a September 25th "Jail-In" was a big success. \$3,400 in "bail" was raised to get our mayor, CAO and directors out of jail. **Paul Schroeder** (IT), raised the most bail, collecting \$612. Go **Paul**, somebody out there really wanted you out of jail! Thanks to all our "jailees" – without you, our goal could not have been met.



(From left: Merlissia Lewis (Police Department), Amanda Schmitt (Building Code), Pat Heiter, Nahoma Webb (Building Code), Pam Heiter (Municipal Code), Vicki Parkhill (Leisure Services), Nette Alexander (Building Code), Denise Evans, Joy Malone (Southwest Water), Anita Jones (Municipal Court) and Angie Barnes.

More funds were raised by departments holding raffles for such popular items as a gas card, Lowes' gift card and a pumpkin candy basket. A Best Cookie Contest was held, as were bake sales, and chili pie/hot dog and a "famous" fish fry sale. Donations were received through and individual sponsorships.

Thank you everyone!

CALL CENTER FRIENDLY & EFFICIENT *Submitted by Lauren Germany*

City government got more user-friendly with the establishment of our city-wide call center! Previously, it was common for citizens to be transferred multiple times before finding the right

department. But now they speak directly to Center Representatives **Rhonda Griffin & Diane Miller** who direct them to the right department the first time! Additionally, the automated phone

system has been eliminated and the number of published phone lines has been consolidated to 26. **Jolene Johnson**, Citizen Request Manager, oversees the Call Center.



DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

Have some news? Let us know! Send your digital pictures, JPGS and other electronic files to

Fire Department	Donna Ladner	868-5954	dladner@ci.gulfport.ms.us
General Admin/Council/Legal	Lauren Germany	868-5831	lgermany@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Leisure Services	Kerri Jones	868-5881	kjones@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Municipal Courts	Chandra Moore	868-5866	cmoore@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Police Department	Mike Saucier	868-5900	msaucier@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Public Works	Sherry Beavers	868-5741	sbeavers@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Urban Development	Isaac Williams	868-5710	iwilliams@ci.gulfport.ms.us